

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAM-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /066 W

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R 020616Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3695

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN DISPUTE

1. EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS WERE THE SUBJECT OF APRIL 30 MEETING OF CABINET AND PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. MAY 1 CAIRO PRESS REPORTS THAT FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF INTERNAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, CABINET TOOK UP QADHAAFI ISSUE. IN STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER MEETING, CABINET "CONDEMNED IRRESPONSIBLE ATTEMPTS" OF COL. QADHAAFI TO UNDERMINE EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS IN A MANNER WHICH MAY HAVE "UNFORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES" AND HELD HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACTION TAKEN AGAINST EGYPTIANS WORKING "ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS" IN LIBYA. STATEMENT NOTED QADHAAFI'S ATTEMPTS TO "SOW DISSENSION AMONG EGYPTIAN TRIBES IN WESTERN DESERT" AND HIS INCITEMENT OF AGENTS TO PLAN SABOTAGE WITHIN EGYPT.

2. PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DEBATE IN MEETING OF PERMANENT AND ARAB AFFAIRS COMMITTEES FOCUSED AGAIN ON "UNSTABLE PERSONALITY OF QADHAAFI" WHO WASTES MONEY ON LIBYAN PEOPLE ON PAYMENTS TO

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"CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS IN BEIRUT", WHO FORMS UNDERCOVER SOCIETIES

TO LAUNCH ATTACKS AGAINST EGYPT, WHO BUYS ARMS FROM THE US
AND SELLS OIL TO THE US AT NON-OPEC PRICES. COMMITTEES
"UNANIMOUSLY AFFIRMED GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EGYPT'S RELATIONS
WITH COL. QADHAAFI AND HER RELATIONS WITH LIBYAN PEOPLE."
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES ALSO AFFIRMED THAT WHILE EGYPT DOES
NOT REJECT UNITY WITH LIBYA, ITS "OFFICIALS" MAKE REALIZATION
OF UNITY DIFFICULT.

3. AHRAM REPORTS IN FRONT PAGE STORY THAT LIBYAN AUTHORITIES
SEIZED 27 EGYPTIAN TAXIS, DEPORTED THE DRIVERS AND REPLACED
EGYPTIAN LICENCE PLATES WITH LIBYAN POLICE PLATES. AHRAM ALSO
REPORTS THAT "SPECIAL GUARDS FROM FESSAN GOVERNORATE UNITS"
HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED BY LARG ON LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN BORDER BETWEEN
MEDITERRANEAN AND GHAGHBUB OASIS.

4. COMMENT: ONLY CAIRO RADIO, VOICE OF THE ARABS AND ENGLISH
LANGUAGE DAILY REPORT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION OF QADHAAFI'S
ALLEGED ARMS PURCHASES FROM US. ALL THREE ARABIC DAILIES OMIT
REFERENCE TO US AND REPORT ONLY THAT ARMS PURCHASED FROM
"FOREIGN COUNTRIES". BOTH PRESS AND PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY CONTINUE
TO DIFFERENTIATE VERY CLEARLY BETWEEN UNSTABLE, SICK QADHAAFI
AND HARD-WORKING, INNOCENT LIBYAN MASSES.

5. FYI. WHEN PRESS WAS GIVEN GREEN LIGHT BY GOE TO RESPOND
TO LIBYA'S ANTI-EGYPT CAMPAIGN, DIRECTIVE STIPULATED THAT
QADHAAFI WAS TO BE FOCUS OF ATTACK AND THAT LIBYAN PEOPLE AND
RCC WERE NOT TO BE VILIFIED.

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